

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electrical connector for use with a conductor, the electrical connector comprising:
 - a) a housing defining a port, the port including:
 - an entrance opening;
 - an exit opening; and
 - a conductor passage extending between and communicating with the entrance and exit openings, the conductor passage being adapted to receive the conductor therethrough;
 - b) sealant disposed in the conductor passage, the sealant being adapted for insertion of the conductor therethrough such that the sealant provides a seal about the inserted conductor; and
 - c) a penetrable closure wall extending across the conductor passage;
 - d) wherein the closure wall tapers inwardly along a direction from the entrance opening to the exit opening prior to insertion of the cable; and
 - e) wherein:
 - the housing defines an interior cavity communicating with the conductor passage;
 - a conductor member is positioned in the interior cavity;
 - the interior cavity includes a volume filled with a compressible gas to receive the sealant when the sealant is displaced by the conductor; and
 - the sealant is located between the entrance opening and the volume.
2. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall is operative to retain the sealant in the passage.

3. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall is frangible.

4. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 3 wherein the closure wall includes a membrane substantially entirely sealing the passage.

5. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall includes a plurality of discrete flaps.

6. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall defines a hole adapted to receive the conductor.

7. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 6 wherein the hole has an inner diameter smaller than an outer diameter of the conductor.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall has a thickness of no more than 0.25 inch.

10. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall is formed of a polymeric material.

11. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the sealant is disposed in the conductor passage between the closure wall and the exit opening.

12. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the sealant is disposed in the conductor passage between the closure wall and the entrance opening.

13. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the closure wall is integrally molded with the housing.

14. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 including an insert member separately formed from the housing and positioned in the conductor passage, wherein the closure wall forms a part of the insert member.

15. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 14 wherein the housing includes a ledge adapted to locate the insert member in the conductor passage.

16. (Previously presented) The electrical connector of Claim 15 further including a conductor member positioned in the housing such that the insert member is cooperatively secured in the conductor passage by the conductor member and the ledge.

17. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 including a second penetrable closure wall extending across the conductor passage such that the first and second closure walls define a sealing region therebetween, wherein at least a portion of the sealant is disposed in the sealing region.

18. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 17 wherein the first and second closure walls are operative to retain the sealant in the sealing region.

19. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 17 including an insert member separately formed from the housing and positioned in the conductor passage, wherein at least one of the first and second closure walls forms a part of the insert member.

20. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 19 wherein the first closure wall is integrally formed with the housing and the second closure wall forms a part of the insert member.

21. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 20 wherein:
each of the first and second closure walls forms a part of the insert member; and
the insert member defines an insert passage including the sealing region.
22. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 17 wherein at least one of the
first and second closure walls is frangible.
23. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 17 wherein at least one of the
first and second closure walls includes a plurality of discrete flaps.
24. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 17 wherein at least one of the
first and second closure walls defines a hole adapted to receive the conductor.
25. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the sealant is a gel.
26. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 25 wherein the gel is adapted
to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the conductor
passage.
27. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein:
a) the housing defines a second port and an interior cavity, the second
port including:
a second entrance opening;
a second exit opening; and
a second conductor passage extending between and communicating
with the second entrance opening and the second exit opening, the second
conductor passage being adapted to receive a second conductor therethrough;

b) sealant is disposed in the second conductor passage, the sealant being adapted for insertion of the second conductor therethrough such that the sealant provides a seal about the inserted second conductor;

c) a second penetrable closure wall extends across the second conductor passage;

d) each of the first and second ports communicates with the interior cavity; and

e) the electrical connector includes:

an electrically conductive busbar conductor member disposed in the interior cavity; and

at least one holding mechanism to selectively secure each of the conductors to the busbar conductor member for electrical contact therewith.

28-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) An electrical connector for use with a conductor, the electrical connector comprising:

a) a housing defining a port, the port including:

an entrance opening;

an exit opening; and

a conductor passage extending between and communicating with the entrance and exit openings, the conductor passage being adapted to receive the conductor therethrough;

b) a first penetrable closure wall extending across the conductor passage;

c) a sleeve member disposed in the conductor passage and defining a sleeve passage, the sleeve member including a second penetrable closure wall extending across the conductor passage such that the first and second closure walls define a sealing region therebetween ; and

d) sealant disposed in the sleeve passage, the sealant being adapted for insertion of the conductor therethrough such that the sealant provides a seal about the inserted conductor;

e) wherein at least a portion of the sealant is disposed in the sealing region; and

f) wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the sealing region.

33. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 32 wherein the sleeve member includes a projection extending into the sleeve passage to increase surface contact between the sleeve member and the sealant in the sleeve passage.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) The electrical connector of Claim 32 wherein the first and second closure walls are formed of a polymeric material.

37. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 32 wherein the sleeve member has a wall thickness of no greater than 0.125 inch.

38. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 37 wherein the sleeve member has a wall thickness of between about 0.015 and 0.100 inch.

39. (Original) The electrical connector of Claim 32 wherein the sleeve member is formed of a polymeric material.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for providing a seal to an electrical connector, the electrical connector including a housing defining a port, the port including an entrance opening, an exit opening, and a conductor passage extending between and communicating with the entrance and exit openings, the conductor passage being adapted to receive a conductor therethrough, the electrical connector further including a first penetrable closure wall extending across the conductor passage, the method comprising:

providing an insert member including:

a sleeve member defining a sleeve passage and including a second penetrable closure wall extending across the sleeve passage; and

sealant disposed in the sleeve passage, the sealant being adapted for insertion of the conductor therethrough such that the sealant provides a seal about the inserted conductor; and

inserting the insert member into the conductor passage such that the first and second closure walls define a sealing region therebetween;

wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the sealing region.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42 including the step of securing the sleeve member in the conductor passage.

44. (Previously presented) The electrical connector of Claim 18 wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the sealing region.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently amended) A busbar assembly for electrically connecting first and second conductors, the busbar assembly comprising:

- a) a housing defining first and second ports and an interior cavity, each of the first and second ports communicating with the interior cavity and including:
 - an entrance opening;
 - an exit opening; and
 - a conductor passage extending between and communicating with the entrance and exit openings, the conductor passage being adapted to receive the conductor therethrough;
- b) sealant disposed in the first and second conductor passages, the sealant being adapted for insertion of the conductor therethrough such that the sealant provides a seal about the inserted conductor; and
- c) a first penetrable closure wall extending across the first conductor passage;
- d) a second penetrable closure wall extending across the second conductor passage;
- e) an electrically conductive busbar conductor member disposed in the interior cavity; and
- f) at least one holding mechanism to selectively secure each of the conductors to the busbar conductor member for electrical contact therewith;
- g) a third penetrable closure wall extending across the first conductor passage, the third closure wall being spaced apart from the first closure wall and positioned between the first closure wall and the exit opening of the first port such that the first and third closure walls define a first sealing region therebetween, wherein at least a portion of the sealant is disposed in the first sealing region; and
- h) a fourth penetrable closure wall extending across the second conductor passage, the fourth closure wall being spaced apart from the second closure wall and positioned between the second closure wall and the exit opening of the second port such that the second and fourth closure walls define a second sealing region therebetween, wherein at least a portion of the sealant is disposed in the second sealing region.

47. (Previously presented) The busbar assembly of Claim 46 wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the first and second conductor passages.

48. (Previously presented) The busbar assembly of Claim 46 wherein each of the first and second closure walls tapers inwardly along a direction from the entrance opening to the exit opening prior to insertion of the cable.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently amended) The electrical connector of Claim ~~[[49]]~~ 46 wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the first and second sealing regions.

51. (Currently amended) The electrical connector of Claim ~~[[49]]~~ 46 including first and second insert members disposed in the conductor passages of the first and second ports, respectively, wherein at least one of the first and third closure walls forms a part of the first insert member and at least one of the second and fourth closure walls forms a part of the second insert member.

52. (New) The electrical connector of Claim 32 wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the sealing region.

53. (New) An electrical connector for use with a conductor, the electrical connector comprising:

- a) a housing defining a port, the port including:
 - an entrance opening;
 - an exit opening;

a conductor passage extending between and communicating with the entrance and exit openings, the conductor passage being adapted to receive the conductor therethrough; and

a ledge;

b) sealant disposed in the conductor passage, the sealant being adapted for insertion of the conductor therethrough such that the sealant provides a seal about the inserted conductor;

c) a penetrable closure wall extending across the conductor passage;

d) an insert member separately formed from the housing and positioned in the conductor passage, wherein the closure wall forms a part of the insert member and the ledge is adapted to locate the insert member in the conductor passage; and

e) a conductor member positioned in the housing such that the insert member is cooperatively secured in the conductor passage by the conductor member and the ledge;

d) wherein the closure wall tapers inwardly along a direction from the entrance opening to the exit opening prior to insertion of the cable.

54. (New) The electrical connector of Claim 53 wherein the sealant is a gel adapted to be elongated and elastically deformed by insertion of the conductor into the sealing region.

55. (New) The electrical connector of Claim 53 wherein the closure wall is operative to retain the sealant in the passage.

56. (New and withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 53 wherein the closure wall is frangible.

57. (New and withdrawn) The electrical connector of Claim 3 wherein the closure wall includes a membrane substantially entirely sealing the passage.

58. (New) The electrical connector of Claim 53 wherein the closure wall includes a plurality of discrete flaps.

59. (New) The electrical connector of Claim 53 wherein the closure wall defines a hole adapted to receive the conductor.

60. (New) The electrical connector of Claim 6 wherein the hole has an inner diameter smaller than an outer diameter of the conductor.